Pay Scales of Stenographers

3009. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while all other categories of Railwaymen have been repeatedly given upgradation and restructuring benefits, Railway stenographers were denied of these benefits treating them as "Common Category" under Central Government;

(b) whether the recommendations of IV Pay Commission and DOP&T award of 1st March, 1988 granting gazetted status to P.As in scale Rs. 2000-3200 have not been implemented in Railways so far; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The stenographers have been treated as a common category under the Central Government. The pay scales allotted to this category are based on the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission and the decisions taken by the nodal Ministries viz. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The scale of stenographic assistance to various levels of officers are also in accordance with the norms prescribed by the nodal Ministry. The improvements in pay scales provided for this category in the other Central Government departments have been adopted in the case of the stenographers on Railways. Posts of stenographers are also automatically upgraded when the posts of officers to whom they are attached are upgraded. Therefore, restructuring of this category has not been considered.

On the Civil side, posts in revised pay scales the maximum of which is not less than Rs. 2900/- but less than Rs. 4000/-, have been classified as Group 'B' by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions based on the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission. This includes the stenographers in scale Rs. 2000-3200 working in non-secretariat Organisations, other than the Ministry of Railways.

The Fourth Central Pay Commission, while making their recommendations on the aspect of classification of posts had observed that some deviation from the general norms did exist in some Ministries/Departments. The Commission indicated that such deviation could be continued after review.

On the zonal Railways, a very large number of senior subordinates are available in the scales of Rs. 1640-2900, Rs. 2000-3200 as well as in the still higher scale of Rs. 2375-3500 who were being classified as Group 'C' in the pre-revised scales of pay. Granting them Group 'B' gazetted status would have wide ranging repercussions in a large number of matters like working arrangements, reporting levels, supervision, entitlements, etc. and, therefore, a decision had been taken by this Ministry to continue with the existing classification, i.e. Group 'C'. This decision is in consonance with the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission, who had indicated that existing deviations could continue if the Ministries/Departments found it necessary. The case of stenographers, therefore, cannot be considered, in isolation ignoring the other categories in the same or still higher grade.

Derailment of Jaipur Bound Sealdah Express

3010. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jaipur-bound Sealdah Express derailed between Poopwas and Bayana Railway station in early hours of 30th July, 1994 and a number of passengers were injured; if so, the details thereof;